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**The Prophecy of Micah.** By Arthur J. Tait.  
New York: Scribner, 1917. Pp. vii+127.  
\$0.75.

Dr. Tait's book is a homiletical and theological interpretation of the prophecies contained in the Book of Micah. It is not historical or critical in any sense of the word. The material contained in it is sane and practical, but little of it has anything to do with the text of Micah. The reader who wishes moral and spiritual stimulus will profit from a reading of the book, but let him not think that he is getting an interpretation of Micah.

**The Psychology of Religion.** By George Albert Coe. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1916. Pp. xvii+365. \$1.50.

One of the most valuable of the series of *Handbooks of Ethics and Religion*, published by the University of Chicago Press, is Professor George A. Coe's new *Psychology of Religion*. It does much toward increasing both the practical value of the subject and its capacity to contribute to a philosophical world-view; and these results are reached simply by the use of a thoroughly scientific method.

In the Preface he sets forth his own personal religious attitude. He puts aside all dogmatic authority, but holds that in the Christian religion we have the greatest of all stimuli, and one which proceeds from and points to reality. So he gets his inspiration from the Christian faith in the divine fatherhood and in human brotherhood, and works frankly with the Christian church. He seeks to be as free from mysticism as from dogmatism and finds the center of gravity of religion in the moral will. He holds to the rational possibility of faith in God and life after death, and conceives the ethical in social terms.

The author's method is that of functional psychology, but he interprets mental functions, not simply from the biological standpoint, but on the basis of the whole life of values. The definition of religion at which he arrives is that it is "the effort at completion, unification, and conservation of values." Religion so understood he distinguishes from ethics by saying: "When ethical value attempts its own ideal completion in union with all other values similarly ideal and complete, what we have is religion."

Three chapters of great importance are "The Religious Revaluation of Values," "Religion as Discovery," and "Religion as Social Immediacy." In these chapters special development is given to the view which runs through the whole book, namely, that religion is becoming more and more a constructive, progressive factor in social evolution. It is further brought out that religion, since its most comprehensive values are those of "personal-social self-realization," is

tending toward the establishment of "a democracy of God." And at the close of this section the author arrives at a conclusion that is of great significance for Christian theism: "In and through the choice of others' good as our own, which may also be called the identification of our will with theirs, the real existence of a common will, and even the personality of it, become convictions."

The chapter on "Prayer" is a remarkable combination of careful scientific analysis and helpful insight. The spirit of social democracy runs through all the author's interpretation of values. Taken as a whole this book will be recognized as one of scientific thoroughness, and of originality, and as a valuable contribution to the capacity of religion to serve social progress.

**The Lure of Africa.** By Cornelius H. Patton.  
New York: Missionary Education Movement, 1917. Pp. xiv+205.

While disavowing "for the book any claim to erudition or completeness," Dr. Patton has given us the best introduction to missions in Africa that we have seen. It shows on every page full first-hand knowledge, and also for a volume of 205 pages its completeness is remarkable. Instead, too, of being a dry epitome its style "lures" the reader on until he comes to the closing optimistic words, "Forward now in God's name." He is a trained up-to-date missionary strategist; so we get the lay of the land all made clear by maps, illustrations, bibliographies, and index. After a personal word Dr. Patton gives a chapter showing why Africa is alluring. Then follow two chapters on Mohammedanism—its strongholds and its aggressiveness; another on strongholds of Christianity; still others on Africa's debit and credit account with civilization, the heart of paganism, and Africa the laboratory of Christianity.

All mission study classes in our churches should include this book.

But is not "lure" a rather overused word nowadays?

**The Hebrew-Christian Messiah;** or, The Presentation of the Messiah to the Jews in the Gospel according to St. Matthew. By A. Lukyn Williams. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. xxii+425. \$3.50.

Vicar of an English parish, Hon. Canon of Ely Cathedral, and Warburton Lecturer in 1911-15, Dr. Williams here publishes his studies in the Gospel of Matthew, especially the christological teaching of the book. He undertakes: (1) to interpret the words of Matthew in the sense in which he desired the contemporary believers of his own race to apprehend them; (2) to expound the teaching of Matthew in relation to ourselves; (3) to present Christ